(b) whether it is also a fact thai the Air Headquarters have decided to drop the project of planting Dhub grass, also known as Bermuda grass, which discourages birds from taking shelter in it; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRT SHIVRAJ PATIL): fa) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) This recommendation of the Bombay Natural History Society was not found cost effective. However, this question is being re-examined in consultation with the Bombay Natural History Society. The result of Dhub grass planting by the Civil Aviation authorities in one of their airfields, is also being watched to derive appropriate lessons therefrom.

Damage to Naval Dockyard Bombay

2023. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will Che Minister of DEFENCE b_e pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the civilian employees of the Indian Naval Dockyard in Bombay caused a great deal of damage to the property of the dockyard in September last;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent recurrence of such types of incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) On 29th September, 1987. about 2000 employees assembled i_n the Dockyard and demanded payment of wages on that day itself. They shouted slogans and then turned violent, damaging some Service vehicles, private vehicles and other Government property. A Board of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate into the circumstances leading to the incident and the extent of damage done.

(c) Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Board of Inquiry. Meanwhile, the Naval Headquarters have issued instructions to all concerned to ensure against such incidents.

Persons living below poverty line in Rajasthan

2024. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA; Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state;

(a) the number of persons living below poverty line in Rajasthan and what is their percentage vis-a-vis other States; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve their economic conditions in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) According to the latest Statewise estimates of persons below poverty line f°r the year 1983-84 which are based on the 38th round of NSs of Household Consumer Expenditure, 126.2 lakh persons were below poverty line in the State of Rajasthan. The statement indicating percentage of persons below poverty line in Rajasthan vis-a-vis other States in 1983-84 is enclosed. *See* Appendix CXLIV,- Annexui* No. 83]

(b) Removal of poverty remains a central concern of Planning in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan development strategy and the pattern of growth envisaged is expected to lead to reduction in poverty. The emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth, adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers, implementation of the minimum $need_s$ programme, and expansion of irrigation facilities will make a substantial contribution to reduction of poverty. In addition, the Seventh Plan also includes a number of anti-poverty and employment promotion programmes specifically de-